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New North Partnership Receives \$50,000 “GROW” Grant

Money Will Support Area Workforce Development and Economic Growth

Manitowoc – Today, Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman announced the New North Partnership will receive a \$50,000 Growing Regional Opportunities in Wisconsin (GROW) grant towards workforce development and economic growth.

“Governor Doyle’s Grow Wisconsin plan has been a catalyst for regional workforce and economic development, and I applaud the leadership of the Fox Valley and the Bay Area Workforce Development Boards. They are working to bridge geographic boundaries and develop strong partnerships with regional economic, government, education, business and labor leaders,” said Secretary Gassman.

GROW funding will allow the Fox Valley Workforce Development and the Bay Area Workforce Development Boards to join forces with the New North partners and the newly formed “NEW Manufacturing Alliance” to address a shortage of skilled manufacturing workers in northeastern Wisconsin.

The New North Partnership will develop a website to enable manufactures to readily identify, screen and contact potential job candidates from dislocated workers and other job seekers. The partnership will also conduct an annual “manufacturing academy” through area schools to provide students with direct hands-on exposure to advanced manufacturing opportunities and to assist students in planning careers in the advanced manufacturing industry.

The Fox Valley Workforce Development Board serves the counties of Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago. The Bay Area Workforce Development Board serves the counties of Brown, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Shawano and Sheboygan.

“This New North Partnership project will greatly complement the work of the Governor’s Council on Workforce Investment,” said Secretary Gassman. “As we develop our workforce and increase career opportunities, we also strengthen our local economy and excite current and prospective employers.”

The GROW grants were established as part of Governor Doyle’s “Grow Wisconsin” initiative.

The funds are available through the state Council on Workforce Investment and are administered by DWD. In 2005, a total of \$465,000 was granted to seven regions to cover the state. An additional \$500,000 is available in 2006 to build upon the successes of the local collaborations to continue to promote regional workforce and economic approaches throughout Wisconsin.

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